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# In the Line of Duty - A Documentary Film About Davis Duty and His Seeing Eye Dog

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in Journalism

by

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# **ABSTRACT**

"In the Line of Duty" is a documentary film about Jeff Davis Duty, a man from a small town in Arkansas, who lost his sight at the age of five. He is the oldest Seeing Eye dog user in the world. At the age of 22, he was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship at the London School of Economics in England, as the first Fulbright Scholar with disability. Duty achieved great success in his career as a lawyer, leading a fulfilling and enjoyable life. The documentary film's storytelling focuses on Duty's life from his childhood to current times and presents all his Seeing Eye dogs and how they assisted in his daily routine.

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#### I. INTRODUCTION

Globally, around 285 million people experience visual impairment, 246 million have low vision, and 39 million are blind (WHO, 2012). Individuals above 50 years old represent 65% of all visually impaired, and 82% of the overall blind population (WHO, 2012). According to the World Health Organization (2012), visual impairment was one of the major health problems in 2010, yet it is not distributed equally around regions. Most people with visual impairment (89%) come from low- and middle-income countries (Ackland et al., 2017). There is an increasing number of people with visual impairment (VI) and blindness in the United States and worldwide due to shifting demographics and aging populations (Varma et al., 2016). In the United States, 3.22 million individuals have vision impairment (VI), and 1.02 million were blind in 2015 (Varma et al., 2016). According to the CDC (2001), blindness and vision problems are placed in the topmost common disabilities among adults in the U.S.

"The highest numbers of these conditions in 2015 were among non-Hispanic white individuals (2.28 million), women (1.84 million), and older adults (1.61 million), and these groups will remain the most affected through 2050. However, African American individuals experience the highest prevalence of visual impairment and blindness" (Varma et al., 2016, p. 802).

Based on the predictions, the amount of visually impaired and blind people will double by 2050 (Varma et al., 2016). Vision loss has not only a consequence in terms of mobility, but it can also lead to social isolation, family stress, and a higher probability of other health problems (Nario-Redmond et al., 2010). Raising the awareness of blindness and visual impairment is crucial since individuals experiencing those conditions are at higher risk of other chronic health problems, unintentional injuries, social withdrawal, depression, and mortality (Ellwein et al., 1996).

"In the Line of Duty" is a documentary film that involves a single case study about Jeff Davis Duty (J.D. Duty), an attorney and a former judge born in 1934 in Rogers, Arkansas. Jeff

Davis Duty became blind at the age of five. He was the first blind child who attended public schools in Arkansas. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and a Juris Doctor degree at the University of Arkansas. He was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship at the London School of Economics in England (Duty, 2014). At the age of 17, he obtained his Seeing Eye dog, and he is considered to be one of the oldest Seeing Eye dog users in the World. In 2021, at the age of 86, he is still practicing law in Fort Smith, Arkansas as an attorney specializing in Social Security Disability and Supplemental Security Income. He is an example of a person with a fascinating story, being a dedicated father and husband. Furthermore, he is still deeply engaged in helping others and his community. According to J.D. Duty, blindness is not a disability for him but rather an inconvenience.

The everyday challenges of people with visual impairment are still not well recognized (Brady et al., 2013). Despite technological progress, they still may struggle with daily tasks, which take them much more time and effort to complete (Brady et al., 2013). Unfortunately, people with disabilities, including blindness, are still stereotypically portrayed by society as dependent, incompetent, and depressed (Nario-Redmond, 2010; Gharaibeh, 2009). Despite the establishment of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990 in the United States, people with disabilities have lower access to employment, fair payment, and housing (National Collaborative on Workforce & Disability for Youth and Workforce Strategy Center, 2009). However, according to the National Federation of the Blind (2019), 30.3 % of visually impaired people gained some college education or associate degrees, and 15.7 % received bachelor's or higher degree in 2016.

The purpose of this documentary film is to present a captivating and motivating story about a person who, despite some limitations, achieved great success in his career, leading a

fulfilling and enjoyable life. The main objective of my research and film is to investigate how blindness influences the main character's daily routine, his professional career, and how he copes with his limitations. Besides, I would like to show how a Seeing Eye dog assists him in everyday life.

The purpose of this research is to document information about the main character and create a documentary film about his life and career. The research questions I am asking are

- 1. How does blindness influence J.D. Duty's daily routine?
- 2. How does J.D. Duty cope with his limitations?
- 3. How does Seeing Eye dog assist J.D. Duty in his everyday life?

#### II. LITERATURE REVIEW

The International Classification of Diseases 11 (2018) recognizes two types of distance and near vision impairment (WHO, 2021). Near vision impairment is defined as "presenting near visual acuity worse than N6 or M.08 with existing correction" (WHO, 2021). Distance vision impairment includes several types, such as mild with visual acuity lower than 6/12, moderate with visual acuity lower than 6/18, severe with visual acuity below 6/60, and blindness with visual acuity worse than 3/60 (WHO, 2021). Another definition formulated by Social Security (2021, para. 2) about legal blindness is

"Central visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with best correction, or a limitation in the field of vision in the better eye so that the widest diameter of the visual field subtends an angle of 20 degrees or less."

U.S. administration uses this definition to determine if an individual is eligible for "vocational training, rehabilitation, schooling, disability benefits, low vision devices, and tax exemption programs" (Vision Aware, 2021, para. 1).

# Circumstances leading to visual impairment and blindness

There are various causes of vision impairment, including uncorrected refractive errors, cataracts, age-related macular degeneration, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, corneal opacity, and trachoma (WHO, 2021). The causes of visual problems vary across regions. Diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, and age-related macular degeneration are more prevalent in high-income countries, whereas cataract is more leading in low and middle-income countries (WHO, 2021).

# A new approach to blindness as an ability, not a disability

According to Jernigan (1965), blindness should be perceived more as a characteristic rather than a handicap.

"When we understand the nature of blindness as a characteristic-a normal characteristic like hundreds of others with which each of us must live-we shall better understand the real need to be met by services to the blind, as well as the false needs which should not be met" (Jernigan, 1965, p. 244).

Jernigan (1965) claims that every characteristic has its own limitations and "restricts to some degree the range of possibility, or flexibility, and very often of opportunity as well" (p. 244). Blindness has some limitations, although many other human characteristics have them, including poverty, illiteracy, and old age. Young age might also have some restraints, including a lack of experience and immaturity. Jernigan (1965) brings an example of the age limitation in the United States Constitution, which specifies that a Presidential Candidate cannot be under thirty-five years old. Jernigan (1965) insists that "blindness has no more importance than any of a hundred other characteristics and that the average blind person is able to perform the average job in the average career" (p. 245). Jernigan (1965) claims that blind people had to develop and invent alternative techniques to perform the same tasks as sighted people do.

# Aids for visually impaired individuals

Braille Alphabet

An alternative technique to read a text used by visually impaired people is the Braille system invented by Louis Braille. According to the American Foundation for the Blind, Braille is defined as

"a system of raised dots that can be read with the fingers by people who are blind or who have low vision. Braille symbols are formed within units of space known as braille cells. A full braille cell consists of six raised dots arranged in two parallel rows each having three dots. The dot positions are identified by numbers from one through six. Sixty-four combinations are possible using one or more of these six dots. A single cell can be used to represent an alphabet letter, number, punctuation mark, or even a whole word" (American Foundation for the Blind, 2021, para. 1).

On average, people are able to read about 125 words per minute (wpm) in Braille, although a reading speed of 200 wpm is also achievable (Braille Works, 2021). In comparison, a sighted adult's standard silent reading speed in English is 238 wpm for fiction and 260 wpm for non-fiction (Brysbaert, 2019).

#### White Cane

White canes allow blind individuals full independence to walk and travel safely. The National Federation of the Blind has distributed at no cost 64 000 white canes since 2008 (National Federation of the Blind, 2021). The white cane is a navigation tool and the symbol of independence for blind and visually impaired people in society (Strong, 2009). Throughout history, visually impaired people used a stick or cane for navigation; however, societal views that blind people can travel independently were imaginable in the past. In the 1960', the National Federation of the Blind took the lead in supporting the rights and enhancing the independence of blind people by providing innovative training on using a white cane (National Federation of the Blind, 2021). In 1964, Congress of the United States and President Lyndon Johnson approved a joint resolution to dedicate October 15 as *White Cane Safety Day* (Strong, 2009). During the joint resolution, the white cane was recognized as a tool that helps blind people safely navigate

the streets. Using a cane has become protected by American law requiring pedestrians and drivers to yield visually impaired people with white cane or service dog (National Federation of the Blind, 2021). Through the years, the white cane further became a symbol not only of safety but also of independence and equality. Due to shifting emphasis from safety toward independence, the National Federation of the Blind refers to October 15 as *White Cane Awareness Day* (National Federation of the Blind, 2021).

# Dog Guides for people with vision loss

A guide dog called 'mobility aid' is a specially trained animal designated for blind or low vision individuals to provide mobility support across various public spaces, streets, and surroundings (Vision Aware, 2021). Guide dogs navigate people through crowds to avoid obstacles, stop at curbs and stairs. Some guide dogs are trained to find and direct toward limited targets such as elevators, doors, or chairs. Although many people are familiar with the image of individuals with a guide dog in public spaces, there are still many misconceptions about what guide dogs can and cannot do (Vision Aware, 2021). For example, there is the frequent incorrect assumption that guide dogs can show a person where to go or can determine if it's safe to cross the street. Furthermore, only a small number of dogs present the abilities and traits required for navigating people who are visually impaired (Industries for the Blind and Visually Impaired, 2021). The most popular dog breeds chosen for blind people are Golden Retrievers, Labrador Retrievers, and German Shepherds. Guide dogs are trained by designated organizations and schools such as Guide Dogs of America in Sylmar, California, Guiding Eyes for the Blind in Yorktown Heights, New York, Guide Dogs of Texas in San Antonio, The Seeing Eye in Morristown, New Jersey, and many more.

At the age of seventeen, Jeff Davis Duty was encouraged by his parents to apply for Seeing Eye dog to increase his independence and help him navigate through college. Throughout his life, he obtained eleven Seeing Eye dogs assisting him in his daily routine but also as his life companion. The Seeing Eye is a non-profit organization, which primary mission "is to enhance the independence, dignity, and self-confidence of people who are blind, through the use of specially trained Seeing Eye® dogs" (The Seeing Eye, 2021, para. 1). The Seeing Eye centers on breeding and raising puppies trained to become service dogs for the blind. The organization also organizes training for visually impaired individuals to use and take care of a dog. Besides, it supports "research on canine health and development" (The Seeing Eye, 2021, para. 1). The Seeing Eye organization is "the oldest existing guide dog school in the world" (The Seeing Eye, 2021, para. 6), established on January 29, 1929, in Nashville, Tennessee. The organization played a prominent part in guide dog movements that formed public policies guaranteeing access and accommodation for individuals with their service dogs (The Seeing Eye, 2021).

The idea of The Seeing Eye School started with Morris Frank (1908-1980), who was frustrated by his dependence and limitations resulted from his blindness. One day, he read a story that appeared in the Saturday Evening Post newsletter titled "The Seeing Eye," written by Dorothy Harrison Eustis (The Seeing Eye, 2021). The story was about veterans who lost their sight during World War I and received qualified guide dogs. Frank reached out to the author of the article, Eustis (1886-1946), an American specializing in coaching German Shepherd dogs for police in Switzerland. Eustis responded and invited him for the training. Frank completed training in Switzerland under Eustis's supervision, and he returned to the United States with his new guide dog, Buddy. On June 11, 1928, Frank presented skills of his guide dog, navigating him across trafficked streets in New York City witnessed and described by journalists. The

Seeing Eye was not only freedom for Frank but also became "the dream of making the entire world accessible to people who are blind" (The Seeing Eye, 2021, para. 2). Adelaide Clifford became the first female instructor that contribute to The Seeing Eye's school development for the first two years. Clifford was trained by Jack Humphrey at Fortunate Fields in Switzerland. After founding the school on January 29, 1929, in Nashville, the first classes launched in February. During the guide dog training, instructors run the blindfold test, which is still used to examine the dog's independence and navigation skills (The Seeing Eye, 2021). In 1931, the school location was moved to Whippany, New Jersey, settled until 1965. The organization set fees in the amount of \$150 for the first dog and \$50 for the successor dog; those fees have been maintained the same until today and cover dog, dog's training, equipment, transportation from any place in the USA to school, three and a half week training on campus and follow-up assistance (The Seeing Eye, 2021). In 1938, Frank's dog, Buddy, was the first service animal that was allowed to board a commercial flight. From 1929 to 2017, the Seeing Eye Team had 17 000 graduates with their service dogs. The Seeing Eye was also an inspiration for the feature of Disney's television movie Love Leads the Way (1984), based on a true story about Morris Frank, the first American who obtained a Seeing Eye dog.

#### III. LEGACY OF JEFF DAVIS DUTY

Jeff Davis Duty was born on December 20, 1934. He had an older sister Carolyn Beth and younger brother John White Duty. Duty's father was an Assistant District Attorney and was later elected to district attorney. His mother, Louis Duty, was a certificated secondary school teacher (Duty, 2014). In 1939, when Duty was approaching his fifth birthday, he became seriously ill. He was sick with mumps, measles, scarlet fever, and flu simultaneously. This was the time before

the introduction of antibiotic treatment. Due to the prolonged fever, Duty experienced widespread hemorrhaging, including the interior of the eyeballs, which caused his loss of sight. He finally recovered from the illness, yet the only remaining effect is blindness. This was the central turning point in his life. His mother decided to move to Little Rock with all her children, so Jeff Davis Duty could attend Kindergarten School for the Blind, whereas his father stayed in Rogers, maintaining his law practice. After half-year, parents noticed that Duty did not advance at School for the Blind, and they moved back to Rogers, looking for other educational opportunities for their son (Duty, 2014).

Davis Duty highlights the importance of his mother's role in his life. In 1940, Duty's mother looked for study options for her son with visual impairment by considering enrolling him in mainstream school. The Superintendent of the Rogers Schools agreed to enroll Duty to regular school. However, his parents were asked to provide additional tutoring for their son in reading and writing in Braille. Duty began attending Central Ward Grade School. With his father's support, his mother Lois Duty was determined to keep Duty at home and send him to public schools, which was an unusual approach during that period (Duty, 2014). It is believed that Duty was the first blind student mainstreamed in Arkansas public schools. Until Duty's sixth grade, tutors who graduated from the School of the Blind were hired to assist Duty at school at least for half of the day, helping him with homework and teaching him to read and write in Braille. After this time, Duty independently maintained his school duties, and his mother helped him with homework and read books to him. His mother never asked him to do anything he could not do; however, she encouraged him to do everything he could do (Duty, 2014).

Despite his blindness, Duty became competent in roller skating and proficient in bicycling. Later, as his brother became older, they both were riding a tandem together. He

engaged in various games such as backyard football; he attempted to play baseball as a pitcher. He tried being a scout. His passion was also listening to afternoon adventure series on the radio. In 1946, when Duty was 11 years old, he became fascinated with horses; he collected horse figures during his childhood, and his parents finally bought him a horse. Duty claims that "I knew I lost my sight, but still, I was doing everything I did before" (personal communication, October 14, 2019).

In 1948, his father, Jeff Duty Sr., was appointed an Assistant State Attorney General. The whole family moved to Little Rock. Louis Duty went back to work as a kindergarten and firstgrade teacher. Davis Duty was enrolled as a ninth-grade student at the State School for the Blind in Little Rock. During his attendance, he experienced many unpleasant situations. Duty was treated as an outsider because he was only a day student, compared to his other residential schoolmates (Duty, 2014). Duty encountered a lack of acceptance from his classmates, several physical attacks, fortunately without serious physical injuries. Duty never considered himself a blind person, yet teachers in the School for the Blind constantly stressed his blindness. They forced him to use a white cane even though he could walk without any assistance before. After one year, he was moved to Little Rock High School, where he made many friends, was elected to the student council, attended Capella Choir, and was also selected for the National Honor Society and a member of Key Club. In 1951, his father decided to go back to private practice, and the whole family moved back to Northwest Arkansas. Duty finished his senior year in Fayetteville High School, where he was elected as a President of the Key Club and selected for a representative to the District Key Club (Duty, 2014).

Parents convinced Duty to obtain a Seeing Eye dog to be fully independent through college. He applied and was accepted to the Seeing Eye School in Morriston, New Jersey. The

dog assigned to him was a female German Shepard called Binney, with whom he was trained for one month and returned with her to Fayetteville, Arkansas (Duty, 2014). In 1952, Jeff Davis Duty became an undergraduate student majoring in Political Science at the University of Arkansas. Duty participated in many school activities; he was selected to a leadership fraternity - Omicron Delta Kappa, and an academic fraternity Phi Beta Kappa. He was also elected for Student Senate, appointed to the student court, and became a Touring Choir member. He even participated in some sports activities, such as wrestling. In 1956, Davis Duty graduated from the university with Top Honors.

Since Duty wanted to be a lawyer, he enrolled in Law School at the University of Arkansas in Spring 1957. During Law School, Duty struggled to balance a social life with law studies. He decided to take a break and apply for the Fulbright Scholarship. He was granted a scholarship to study at the London School of Economics at the University of London between 1957 – 1958 (Duty, 2014). According to Keneson-Hall (2021), Duty is the first known Fulbright Scholar with disability. During that time, the United Kingdom required six-month quarantine on all animals who entered the country to prevent rabies. That meant that Duty and his Seeing Eye dog had to be separated, resulting in Duty's lessened independence. The story of separating the Seeing Eye dog from Duty gained worldwide media coverage. Upon arrival to London, Binney was placed in the quarantine large private kennel to allow Duty a twice-week visitation within a driving distance from where Duty was living. Local volunteers drove Duty to the kennel during quarantine, where Binney was placed, to maintain training with his dog. After a half-year, Binney was released from quarantine with mass press coverage. In September 1958, Davis and his dog returned to the United States to complete his degree in Law School (Duty, 2014).

With the support of his family members, friends, and Senator J.W. Fulbright, Duty obtained work for the Justice Department in October 1959, specializing in the Special Trial Section of the Anti-Trust Division (Duty, 2014). In 1959, Duty married Mary Lynn Ellis and worked in Washington for two and half years. Finally, Duty received his law degree in 1960 and passed the bar exam in Arkansas. He was sworn in as a Bar member by a Judge of the United States Tax Court in Washington. Unfortunately, in the summer of 1961, Binney's health deteriorated, and she could not work anymore. Due to her health conditions, she had to be put to sleep. After Binney, Duty obtained a new Seeing Eye dog, a male German Shepard – Wyn (Duty, 2014).

Due to the death of Duty's uncle, who was practicing law with Duty's father in their company Duty & Duty, Attorneys at Law, Davis Duty was persuaded by a family to leave Washington and join a family law firm in Arkansas in 1961. In the family law firm, Duty as a lawyer had an opportunity to learn how to prepare contracts, wills, deeds, file pleadings, and try cases. His father was supporting him and teaching all aspects of the law practice profession. In 1968, Davis Duty tried his effort in running a campaign for the office of Circuit Judge. He lost the election by 600 votes, but he made many friends and enjoyed the whole process of the campaign. Next, Duty was elected as Municipal Judge of Rogers in 1970, serving one and half years. During his term, he introduced the idea of a teen jury program, where teenagers who committed minor offenses were judged by their peers, who recommended sentences such as roadside cleanup and writing themes (Duty, 2014). If the guilty teenager accepted the punishment and completed it, the charges were dismissed, and the teen had no record.

Duty and his first wife have two children, Diana Lynn, and John Ellis. Over the years, his public appearance decreased. Duty preferred to spend more time with his family, play chess in

the chess club, and attend the Methodist Church and Community Chorus. In 1963, the JCs honored him with the award Rogers Young Man of the Year (Duty, 2014). In 1970, Duty was admitted to the United States Supreme Court. Interestingly, until 1960, guide dogs were not permitted inside the Courtroom when the Court was in session. Thanks to Duty's persistence and the help of the Congressman (Judge) Jim Trimble and Arkansas Senator J.W. Fulbright, guide dogs were allowed to attend with spectators in the Courtroom. Binney was the first Seeing Eye dog to exercise this right. Duty's third dog – Shane, was the first Seeing Eye dog ever that accompanied a lawyer in the Court when Duty was admitted to the Court on June 8, 1970 (Duty, 2014).

In 1970, Duty experienced some financial and marital struggles. During serving a term as a Municipal Judge, his law practice struggled, and he lost clients (Duty, 1994). Finally, he decided to make significant changes in his career and applied for an Administrative Law Judge position for the Federal Government, concentrating on Social Security. He accepted a job offer as a Supplemental Security Income hearing examiner in Florence, Alabama. In 1975, Duty and his wife divorced. Later in 1975, Duty was transferred to serve in California and offered a promotion to full Administrative Law Judge in the Social Security Administration in Phoenix, Arizona. In 1976, Davis met his future third wife, Joan Elizabeth Peachy. In Phoenix, Duty's life situation improved. He obtained full custody of his children in 1976 since his previous wife was obtaining a master's degree in social work. He also married Joan Elizabeth Peachy and bought a house (Duty, 2014). By 1983, Davis was determined to try restoring his private law practice and step down from government office. He obtained a loan from the Federal Small Business of \$100,000 to develop the law office again. Duty used his expertise gained during his appointment as a Social Security Law Judge to represent clients in Social Security disability cases in Arizona.

Since his wife could not find a job, Duty offered her to help him out in his office. During the first year of practice, the firm won fifty-seven cases. In the following year of 1985, they won seventyfour. Since Duty did not have a license to practice law in Arizona, despite the fact it was not required in the cases he represented, judges many times resisted him. Due to difficulties faced during his law practice in Arizona, Duty moved back to Fort Smith, Arkansas, where he was licensed to general law practice (Duty, 2014). In 1986, Duty and his wife settled in Fort Smith, where they enjoyed everyday life and fell into daily work routines. Unfortunately, Duty's wife was detected with a lump in her breast, which was successfully removed, yet two years later, cancer reoccurred. After the long battle, his wife died in March of 1990. Duty was still performing the law practice; however, his life was extensively impacted by the loss of his wife. In 1991, Davis met his current wife, Barbara Raines, with whom he is married today. Barbara holds her degree in Education with a specialization in Orientation and Mobility. She was also a certified mobility instructor and worked with people at the Arkansas Enterprises for the Blind. Later she worked for the Arkansas Department of Education as a mobility instructor teaching visually impaired kids who attended public mainstream schools.

By 2021, Jeff Davis Duty is still practicing law at the age of 86, helping his clients in the Social Security cases in Fort Smith, Arkansas. Duty advocates in social security cases, assisting people in reclaiming their self-esteem. Thanks to social security benefits, people can pay for bills, food and retrieve their dignity (The Seeing Eye Guide, 1988). Moreover, Davis Duty, believed to be the oldest Seeing Eye dog user in the world, claims that "The Seeing Eye helps people retain the respect they so often do not receive" (The Seeing Eye Guide, 1988, p. 1). Duty emphasizes that he does not want to be perceived as a blind man or a special person, and he prefers to be recognized as a good lawyer rather than an efficient blind person. He also believes

that blindness is an inconvenience, but it is another way of life (personal communication, October 14, 2019).

#### IV. PRODUCTION NARRATIVE

The script of the documentary film "In the Line of Duty" is based on the book "In the Line of Duty," an autobiography written by Jeff Davis Duty and edited by his daughter Diana West. The movie includes face-to-face interviews with Jeff Davis Duty, his wife, and an online interview with his daughter Diana West. This documentary film includes four separate interviews and video meetings. The first video interview with Jeff Davis Duty was conducted by Prof. Larry Foley and Prof. Hayot Tuychiev on campus at the University of Arkansas. Further video interviews were done by Paulina Sobczak in Fort Smith. Finally, one online video interview via zoom was recorded with Diana West, Duty's daughter on July 7, 2020.

Besides video interviews, additional B-roll footage was filmed during the above-listed meetings. Those videos present Jeff Davis Duty's daily routines and hobbies. The cover footage also involves his tasks as a lawyer at his office, walking with his dog, playing chess and musical instruments, reading a newspaper in Braille, spending his spare time with his wife and dog at his home. The film also introduces complimentary videos such as city landscapes, retrospections, and animations. Furthermore, supplemental materials from archives are incorporated, such as photos, newspapers, and videos. Most of the materials were provided from a private collection by Jeff Davis Duty and library collection at the University of Arkansas.

The format of the film is DCI 2048x1080. The majority of the video material was recorded by mirrorless camera Fujifilm XT-3 with lens 35 mm f/2 and 18-55 mm f/3.5. The selected frame rate for the majority of the video, including the interview, was set for 24 frames

per second (fps), and some B-roll scenes were set for 60 fps to achieve the slow-motion effect. For this film production, Drone Mini Air 2 was utilized for external views and Go Pro Hero 8 - action camera for videos from the dog's perspective. For sound recording, a shotgun microphone RØDE VideoMic Pro+ was used. During videography, F-LOG mode was proposed to allow further colorization in the postproduction process. The postproduction process was made by the utilization of software such as DaVinci Resolve for editing and colorization parts and After Effects for animation effects and titles.

#### **Challenges**

During film production, I faced several challenges. First, there is no doubt that recording the video in high resolution is helpful to receive better visual quality and better color correction. However, high-resolution footage requires a large amount of storage space on S.D. cards and external drives, and high-performance computers to process these data. That is why all video files required separate transcoding to decrease the size of data for a smoother and faster editing process. The transcoding process was very time-consuming and required the purchase of a special transcoding software.

Most of the film production process was performed by one person. Since controlling the entire film process from pre- to post-production might be beneficial and a learning experience, it is also time-consuming and stressful. One person must perform multiple tasks such as controlling sound, interviewing, and taking care of visuals in terms of composition, exposure, etc.

Some of my planned ideas could not be utilized during the video shooting. First of all, the main character had a very busy schedule, which required scheduling meetings a month in advance. Since my time was limited, I decided to rely on the traditional documentary film approach by doing an interview and filling the film with coverage videos, B-rolls. After

reviewing my footage, I realized that some footage could be reshot for better composition or exposure. However, after my third meeting with the main character, the COVID-19 pandemic started, and visiting Jeff Davis Duty during this period was not an option. I decided to rely on the video that I had shot already.

Another production challenge was the fact that the main character was after major surgery, which unable some physical activities. I also wanted to make some videos from the dog's point of view by attaching a GoPro to the dog's back. The dog expressed his distress while wearing the camera on his back, so I removed it after one short walk. I believe in prioritizing the comfort of people and animals during documentary film production over my artistic visions.

Every film production experiences smaller or more significant challenges. However, the most important aspect is to use these difficulties to our advantage, such as learning experiences or finding new solutions. Since I realized that my documentary film experienced some problems, the most important for me is that I took a lesson from the process, and in my following documentary films, I made sure to avoid my mistakes and similar issues.

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# VI. APPENDIX

# APPENDIX A: IRB APPROVAL LETTER



To: Larry D Foley

KIMP 0116D

From: Chair, Douglas James Adams

IRB Expedited Review

Date: 06/15/2020

Action: Review Not Required

 Action Date:
 06/15/2020

 Protocol #:
 1906200557

 Study Title:
 "In the Line of Duty"

Please keep this form for your records. Investigators are required to notify the IRB if any changes are made to the referenced study that may change the status of this determination. Please contact your IRB Administrator if you have any questions regarding this determination or future changes to this determination.

# APPENDIX B: EXAMPLE OF INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Questions for Jeff Davis Duty:

- 1. Please introduce yourself.
- 2. Could you tell me about your childhood before you lost your sight?
- 3. Under what circumstances did you lose your sight?
- 4. How loss of sight influenced your life?
- 5. In your book, you wrote about a strong bond with your mother. Could you tell me more about your relationship with her and how she supports you in your life?
- 6. In the book, you mentioned that you were the first blind child in Arkansas who was mainstreamed at public school. Could you tell me about this experience?
- 7. Could you tell me why and how did you obtain your first dog, Binney?
- 8. Could you tell me how did you pursue your dream of riding a bike even though you lost your sight at the age of five?
- 9. What is a popular misconception/stereotype about blindness?
- 10. Could you describe to me your experience as a student at the University of Arkansas?
- 11. How have you been engaged in campus life at the University of Arkansas?
- 12. Why did you decide to apply for the Fulbright Scholarship?
- 13. Could you tell me about your experience during the Fulbright Scholarship in London?
- 14. What kind of lesson did you learn during the Fulbright Scholarship?
- 15. Could you tell me about your career path and the function you thrived through your life?
- 16. Could you introduce all of the dogs you had and shortly describe their personalities and the most memorable moments with them?
- 17. How your Seeing Eye dog helps you in your everyday routine?

- 18. Could you tell me about your actual wife, how did you meet her, what she is doing, and how do you spend your spare time?
- 19. What are your hobbies?
- 20. Is there anything else that you would like to add but I did not ask you about?

# **APPENDIX C: SCRIPT**

Writer/Director/Producer/Editor/Camera:	Graduation Date: December 2021
Paulina Sobczak	
Estimated time: 21:30	Status:
Version: 1	Revised: October 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2021

TIME	AUDIO	VIDEO		
PART 1: PROLOGUE				
	FADE IN MUSIC: Cinematic Documentary Instrumental	FADE IN  BACKGROUND: Black with Light Leaks  LOWER THIRD: Be yourself but be your best self. Dare to be different and to follow your own star. Don't be afraid to be happyenjoy what is beautiful. S.H. Payer  FADE TO BLACK		
	FADE OUT  MUSIC: Cinematic Documentary Instrumental	FADE IN B-ROLL: Drone footage  LOWER THIRD: A film by Paulina Sobczak  B-ROLL: Duty sits on the porch  LOWER THIRD: Starring: Jeff Davis Duty & Ellery  B-ROLL: Duty reads a book. B-ROLL: Duty plays chess. B-ROLL: Duty walks with a dog.		

	LOWER THIRD: In the line of Duty				
PART 2: MY EARLY YEARS					
MUSIC: Hopeful calm music	LOWER THIRD: My Early Years				
LECTOR (VO)  Jeff Davis Duty began his life in the family home in Rogers, Arkansas at approximately 6 a.m. on December 20, 1934. He was preceded in the family circle by a sister, Carolyn Beth, and later acquired a younger brother, John White Duty. For the first five years of his life, they felt they lived an idyllic, Garden-of-Eden existence. His father was an Assistant District Attorney and was later elected to the office of Prosecuting Attorney for the third Judicial District of Arkansas.  SOUND  Sound of the projector, changing slideshow.	B-ROLL: Old Town in Rogers  PHOTO SLIDESHOW  STILL PHOTO: Duty's house STILL PHOTO: Duty's family members.  STILL PHOTO: Duty as a child.				
FADE OUT					
MUSIC: Hopeful calm music					
FADE IN Sad Music  LECTOR (VO) Then, in 1939, real-life imposed itself int that Garden of Eden. About the week of his fifth birthday, just before Christmas of 1939, Davis became very sick. He was struck with mumps, measles, scarlet fever, and the flu simultaneously.  Davis recovered from his illness, but not without a lasting reminder. The illness had completely taken his sight	wind in the night.  B-ROLL: Snow and dark shades of trees.				

#### **DAVIS DUTY**

The one, the one regret I had at that time, I was just about to have my fifth birthday, and my parents had bought me a little bicycle. It was red, I remember it's red and white and just a beautiful bicycle and I'd always wanted a bicycle. And I had slipped upstairs and found it and I slip up and look at it. I couldn't wait till my fifth birthday. And then I got this, this, these sicknesses and lost my sight and couldn't ride the bicycle, just broke my heart.

# **DAVIS DUTY (VO)**

However, later on in life, about in the fifth or sixth grade when I was about 10 or 12, my folks got me in another bicycle a little bit bigger this time. And I finally got my wish to ride bicycles.

# **DAVIS DUTY**

People felt about blindness differently than they do now. Nowadays blind people are given more of a chance, and they are treated more normally. But back then, if you were blind, people didn't think you could do anything.

I had always been expected to be a lawyer when I grew up. And, um, after I lost my sight, when I got a little bit older, I, there was a short time when I thought, well, how can I study to be a lawyer? How can I go to school? How can I do all that reading?

# **DAVIS DUTY (VO)**

# **FADE TO**

STILL PHOTO: Duty in the sunglasses after he lost his sight. B-ROLL: CU on the red and white bike.

B-ROLL: Playground.

B-ROLL: Child rides a red bike.

B-ROLL: Video of books, CU on the book, and sliding pages.

And my mother said I'll help you. She read; she would read the books to me. She would read, and she would read them and put them on tape and send them down to the law school. And I would, I would play the tapes that she recorded, and get my reading done that way.

But she helped me out in many, in many, many ways. She never asked me to do anything I couldn't do, but she insisted that I do everything I could do.

STILL PHOTO: Duty's mother and father.

#### **PART 3: DOG DAYS**

#### **DAVIS DUTY (VO)**

In the summer of 1952, I went up to the Seeing Eye School in Morristown, New Jersey. That's the earliest and the oldest guide dog school in the United States. And as far as I know in the world. I went up there and they, in June of 1952 and trained with Binney. You trained with, the dogs had been trained for four or five months. So, I went up and trained with her for the full six weeks. And then you go home together.

# **DAVIS DUTY (partially VO)**

Binney was a lot of fun. She, we had a lot of excitement during the time I had her. One time we were out walking, and we came to a curb stop, end of the sidewalk, at the street. And she stopped as she was supposed to. And I said forward, which is a command to go into the street and cross it and she wouldn't go. And you have to make them obey. Uh, so I just stepped off the curb, holding to her leash. And fell about six feet into a big hole which was in the street. They were digging up the

LOWER THIRD: Dog Days

STILL PHOTO: Davis and Binney

sewers and, uh, I was lying there at the bottom and the mud and the water. And she was standing up there on the curb looking down at me and I swear she was laughing.

I had her all the way through the university of my undergraduate studies. And, uh, she was with me when I ran for the Student Senate. And when I ran for the student body president and other. Things, things that I did. Wherever I went, she went, uh, except that at five o'clock at night, she decided to go home because that was feeding time. And wherever I was, she stopped and would turn in head towards home, and there wasn't much I could do about it. I just had to go along with her.

#### PHOTO SLIDESHOW

STILL PHOTO: Old Main,
University of Arkansas
STILL PHOTO: Davis Duty with the
dog
NEWSPAPER ARTICLE: student
council
STILL PHOTO: old picture of
campus
NEWSPAPER ARTICLE: "Duty
graduated with Top Honors"

B-ROLL: Duty walks with the dog on campus

#### PART 4: THE FOGGY YEAR IN LONDON

# **DAVIS DUTY (partially VO)**

I was talking about independence that you didn't, that a blind person can have if they learn to get around by themselves, either with a cane or was it guide dog.

I went overseas to the former Fulbright scholarship on my, by myself. I'll never forget. I was only 17 years. No, I was older than that. Wasn't it? I was about 22.

# **DAVIS DUTY (partially VO)**

I got on the ship and the fact that I was going to be separated from my dog because, they, England, at that time, had a quarantine, and they, no animal could come in without being quarantined for six months because they were trying to, to fill out and get rid of rabies. And there was a

#### LOWER THIRD

The Foggy Year in London

B-ROLL: Globe, CU on the United States and Great Britain

NEWSPAPER: an article about Binney and Duty separation in London good reason for it. They had a perfectly valid reason for it, but it, it certainly didn't make me very happy because I didn't have my dogs for six months. And I had to, I had went visited her twice a week and walked, walked her around the kennels. But I couldn't take her out on the streets.

But, after six months, then I got her back and Senator Fulbright came over. He came over to London to greet me when I got my dog out of quarantine and we had a press conference, a joint press conference, and he talked about international affairs, and I talked about Seeing Eye dogs.

# **JOURNALIST**

Good to see you're walking in London for the first time.

#### YOUNG JEFF DAVIS DUTY

Yes, it's wonderful to be out today for the first time. It's a beautiful day to be walking, actually.

#### **JOURNALIST**

How have you managed without Benny in these six months?

# YOUNG JEFF DAVIS DUTY

Well, of course, I've been much less independent than I've ever been before. And of course, I've been entirely dependent upon my friends, but now with her back again, I can go when I please, as I please, where I please.

# **JOURNALIST**

#### PHOTO SLIDESHOW

STILL PHOTO: Binney and Davis in London after leaving quarantine.
STILL PHOTO: Davis and Senator Fulbright.
STILL PHOTO: Davis and dog Photo of international students sitting in the conference room.

ARCHIVE VIDEO: Broadcasting news, journalist conducts interview with Duty

Does London traffic seem any different to her than traffic back home?

# YOUNG JEFF DAVIS DUTY

No, she works traffic as an entity and it's according to each individual vehicle, she isn't aware of traffic patterns. So, there won't be any problem with that.

# **JEFF DAVIS DUTY (VO)**

Incidentally, she was more popular than I was. It was, it was a big story in Britain, but when it came time for recognition, Christmas arrived and Binney got over a thousand Christmas cards. I didn't get any, I felt like I came to know right away that I was second on the list.

NEWSPAPER: Various articles about Binney and Duty in London ARCHIVE VIDEO: Duty and Binney walk on the street

### **PART 5: FROM BOOKS TO PAYCHECKS**

#### **JEFF DAVIS DUTY (partially VO)**

When I got back from there, I had to finish law school. I finished in 1960. I passed the Bar Association in Arkansas. And uh, got a job that fall with the United States Department of Justice in Washington in The Antitrust Division.

I stayed there for three years, and then I got married while I was there, but to my first wife.

And then, when my uncle died, the only left my father and I was persuaded by my family to return to Rogers and joining the firm found that I enjoyed it very much practicing law, trying to lawsuits, trying cases.

LOWER THIRD: From Books to Paychecks

STILL PHOTO: Portrait of Jeff
Davis Duty in the office
STILL PHOTO: Duty with his dog
looking at him

NEWSPAPER: with highlighted heading "Miss Mary Lynn Ellis, Jeff Davis Duty Jr. to pledge wedding vows in November"

STILL PHOTO: Duty & Duty law firm in Rogers.

STILL PHOTO: Duty's family members who work in the Duty & Duty law firm.

And, eventually, I ran for City Attorney of my own town and won and served for two terms. Then I ran for Municipal Judge and served a term.

And about that time, we had a recession in the early seventies. I realized that we were, I'm having trouble making a leaving.

# **JEFF DAVIS DUTY (partially VO)**

So, I applied for a job as an administrative law judge with the social security administration. I was hired. These judges, track cases, having to do with a disability, you get people who have, who are disabled, who can't work, apply for social security benefits in order to live. And have to prove that they're disabled and can't work. And that was my job to be the judge and decide whether they were, they were disabled or not. And, uh, in 1984, I, uh, I decided that I had had about enough of that because it hurt. It gets tiresome after a while to hear nothing but disability cases and sad stories, so.

#### JEFF DAVIS DUTY (partially VO)

This is the library which we keep for all purposes. I have a lot of mine memorability around. I like horses and Wester Art, so we have quite a bit of that around.

#### **JEFF DAVIS DUTY (partially VO)**

The only kind of work, that I do now, as a lawyer, and I have done all kinds of law over the years, I've been practicing law

NEWSPAPER: titled "Shane the Legal - 'Beagle'"

ADVERTISEMENT: "Davis Duty for Circuit Judge"

STILL PHOTO: Duty and his dog in front of Supreme Court in Washington, D.C.

B-ROLL: Duty reads a book in Braille

ON CAM: Duty walks with his dog in his office and shows the library. Duty talks about library. B-ROLL: View on the library and sculptures.

ON CAM: Duty writes in Braille in front of his desk.

B-ROLL: Portrait of Mr. Davis Duty on the wall.

for 40..., 69 years. And so now that's what I do. I've left the government, and I'm representing those clients before the judge, the judges like I was. So, I'm holding, I take notes so I can present the case...

B-ROLL: Dog lays on the floor

#### **JEFF DAVIS DUTY**

Now, what was her education?

ON CAM: Duty sits in front of his desk and writes in Braille

#### **SECRETARY**

High school education

#### **JEFF DAVIS DUTY**

High school education

ON CAM: Duty talks while writing

#### **JEFF DAVIS DUTY**

And I have about 500 of these cases that I'm working on at any one time. So, I'm busy. And then I have people coming in two- or three times a day to interview new clients, but that we take notes on. So, uh, we're, we're busy, 24/7, you might say. We never, we never have a break in reg breaking points rest, I'll say that. All right, go ahead....

#### JEFF DAVIS DUTY

And I read the brief summarizing what the claimant's problem is, and why and how they qualify for disability under the law. And then I go to take all this to court and present it to the judge in about 45 minutes to an hour hearing. And they write up a decision and either pay my client or deny them. And if they deny them, I usually appeal it. And sometimes we appeal 6, 8, 10, 12 times, and cases can last, they can last three months, or they can last five years or 10 years, and I

keep all these files. And once they're done, I keep them in my briefcase, so I won't lose them, because like, like any ON CAM: Duty packs the folder into man, I lose everything. There's too much his suitcase going on, so I just put it there to keep it safe. All right. Very good. Now that's essentially what I do all day long. **DIANA WEST (partially VO)** STILL PHOTO: Duty's children He's worked very hard during his life to be successful, without regard to his blindness. And, he has also successfully raised a family, which is something that I have personally benefited from as well. He was a very important person in my life when I was very young, of course, because he was my daddy. He was very influential in the small town that we lived in. So, I had, I picked up on the respect that people had for him, and how much people really cared about his opinion. So, I had a lot of respect for him, myself as a small child. **DIANA WEST (partially VO)** B-ROLL: Duty plays chess, various I did experience many, many, many, shots many times of discrimination, where people would patronize him or speak down to him or try to physically, you know, move him. Really awful situations. But he always handled them with poise. And that taught me a lot about how to react when people act stupidly. And he always had such dignity. He really taught me a lot about dignity. I think that what's really memorable to me about my father is not his blindness. It's the expansiveness of his spirit and his ability to do, to function in the world, has a whole lot more to do with just who he is as a person and his intelligence, and his

interests and capabilities, than anything to do with the basic elements of getting around and walking around.

And I do think though, The Seeing Eye dog that, the service dogs that he's had through the years have given him that independence so that he is not a handicapped person. He is a person who just has an extra tool.

B-ROLL: Duty walks with his dog

#### PART 6: THE DOGS FOR WHOM I HAVE WORKED FOR

# **JEFF DAVIS DUTY (partially VO)**

Dogs are smarter than people in a lot of ways. And they understand things that maybe we don't realize they understand. I don't think that I could ever part with any of my dogs. Every dog I get is the best dog I ever had. That's what you have to think about it. You can't think about it, how's it compared to the last dog. But I don't think I ever gave poor Wynn a chance. I think I was, so, I was so new with dogs and Binney was such a good dog that I don't really think I gave Wynn a chance.

STILL PHOTO: Dog Wyn with Duty in the Seeing Eye Dog School

B-ROLL: Certificate from the Seeing Eye that identifies Duty with his dog Wyn and Shane

# **JEFF DAVIS DUTY (partially VO)**

The third dog was called Shane. I love the name. And it's a female German Shepherd. She was a very nervous dog.

She went blind and I didn't know it. She had very little vision, with a little bit of peripheral vision in her right eye. And I didn't find this out till just before I lost her. And she would keep track of the edge of the curb. It does a street on my right. If I was on the right with that right eye peripheral vision, and I never knew she couldn't see, she worked perfectly, except

STILL PHOTO: Dog Shane on the floor

B-ROLL: Dog's point of view when she almost lost his entire vision

that every so often she'd have to get too close to it. And then she'd, she'd bumped me into parking meters. Uh, up in Phoenix they have a lot of parking meters. B-ROLL: CU on the dog sitting on the grass JEFF DAVIS DUTY (partially VO) And uh, my next dog was Cinder, and that NEWSPAPER: Duty with his dog was when Jenny, the fourth dog Jenny Cinder didn't work out. They brought this little B-ROLL: Certificate from the Seeing Eye that identifies Duty with his dog black lab, that her master died and all she lived for was working. She loved to work, Cinder and she was a bit, all the time she was working, her tail would be up just bang, bang, bang, wagons were just, she just loved to work. **JEFF DAVIS DUTY (partially VO)** STILL PHOTO: Dog Eddie who Next dog was Eddie, a big, old German bites piece of textile STILL PHOTO: Eddie with Duty Shepherd. He was a terrific dog. He did have some strange things though in his and Barbara life. Twice he got out. Every time the door was open if you didn't watch him, he B-ROLL: Dog runs outside walked out. He just walked out on the B-ROLL: Dog sits on the grass porch and, and one day we couldn't find him anywhere. And I was out in the front yelling for him. What I didn't know was that he was right behind me the whole time, just watching me, but he knew he was going to get in trouble. He had apparently been gone down to the garbage pail at the Chinese restaurant down the street and helped himself to lunch here. He got to be so well-known around town. Everybody knew him and everybody loved him. I don't let people pet my dogs, but they speak to him, and they really loved him. And when he died, they declared that they Eddie Duty Day in Fort Smith, and they had a big celebration out in a parking lot. **JEFF DAVIS DUTY (partially VO)** 

And the next dog I got after Eddie was Hartley, he was a Labrador Retriever, a golden, golden Retriever, half golden half yellow lab. And he was a beautiful dog. Very big, big dog. About a hundred pounds, I guess. But the only thing bad about it was he was more interested in food than he was working. I could make him work, by paying really close attention and really being strict.

STILL PHOTO: Dog Hartley with Duty and Barbara

There were several times he almost got me lost by turning the wrong way. He saw one time a squirrel ran across in front of him and ran down an alley and he just turned down that alley, followed that squirrel. But I turned around and got him back on track. But he got cancer. He died when he was about seven or eight. Most of my dogs lived to their 10 or 12.

B-ROLL: Dog's point of view when he is walking

# JEFF DAVIS DUTY (partially VO)

After him, came, Izmir. That was about 2005. I wanted a German Shepherd. So, they assigned him to me, and I brought him home. We had a great 10 years together, but the sad part was I'm a bagpiper, and I used to compete in bagpipe competitions. And I didn't realize that, well, first place nobody ever told me that you were supposed to wear earplugs. And I noticed that my hearing was getting bad. But, I didn't know what I was doing to my dog, and Izmir would not let me perform without him sitting right next to me. And, we realize it, he was stone deaf. He was a dog there that was always guarding. His head was constantly moving, looking like, like soldiers do. He came down with cancer too. He had stopped breathing. His heart had stopped

STILL PHOTO: Dog Izmir with Duty and Barbara STILL PHOTO: Duty with Izmir and other Seeing Eye dog users and their dogs

STILL PHOTO: Duty plays Bagpipes, and his dogs sits next to him and has headphones STILL PHOTO: Dog with headphones

B-ROLL: Dog sits,

B-ROLL: Dogs walks away, blurred

working and he was still scanning the room. But that broke my heart. JEFF DAVIS DUTY (partially VO) Six months later, I got a call from one of B-ROLL: Nature and rain B-ROLL: Dog Ellery on the floor my friends up there, and he said, Davis, I got the good news for you, and I got bad STILL PHOTO: Duty and Ellery in news. He said the good news is I found front of his firm STILL PHOTO: Duty and Ellery in you a dog, with Izmir's blood in it. His his office name is Ellery, but you can't get him for another six months, because he came back and he had broken ribs, pneumonia and was right at death's door. And they said he's getting better. He's improving and if he keeps all improving, I've already put your name down to get him. And I finally went and got him. He came into that room, he jumped all over me with it without any preamble. And it was like a hot dog. Well, they've got me a new human, and let's gets go and he wanted to get right out and start working. And that's the Izmir I've got. I mean, Ellery on the floor here. He's nine years old now. That's my story about all my B-ROLL: Ellery lays on the floor dogs. FADE TO BLACK **PART 7: EPILOGUE FADE IN FADE TO MUSIC:** Cinematic Documentary B-ROLL: Nature, Sun behind leaves Instrumental B-ROLL: Duty sits on the porch with his dog **DIANA WEST (VO)** B-ROLL: CU on his dog So, there are differences among all of us, which gives us challenges, but also advantages. There's a lot of aspects, but again, it's what the person does with it. So, he always just did the best with what

he had, and when it comes down to it, isn't that what we all have to do? B-ROLL: Duty walks with his dog **JEFF DAVIS DUTY (VO)** I just would want anybody that ever read B-ROLL: Various photos of Duty on it or saw anything about me. I would want the table them, to realize that I'm just like anybody B-ROLL: Dog over the sunset **B-ROLL:** Sunset else. I'm not a blind man. I'm not a special person. I think I would rather have recognition as being a good lawyer, than being an efficient blind person, but I'm, I'm not ashamed of being blind. Blindness is an inconvenience, but it's just another way of life. And I've been that way a long time. I wouldn't change. I just want to be accepted, like everybody else in the community and, and be given a chance to serve my community and my family, and my church. When I depart, I want to leave the world a little bit better than it was what I found it. LOWER THIRD: The End **FADE to BLACK** 

# APPENDIX D: LINK TO SUPPLEMENTAL VIDEO FILE LOCATION

https://vimeo.com/641785571/bb13d61b4f